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THE USE OF STEREOPTICAN SLIDES AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

(Prof. F. L. Day, of Randolph-Macon College.)

If we are to put and keep Biblical instruction on a par with other courses offered in preparatory schools, colleges and universities we must see that the physical equipment is equally as good as that of other departments. Large sums of money are being spent on the laboratories of physics, chemistry and biology which makes it possible for these subjects to be taught with the highest degree of efficiency.

For lack of means of illustrations the work in Biblical instruction has often suffered when compared to that done in other subjects. To forestall criticism and command respect Biblical work must be done as accurately and scientifically as that done in chemistry, biology or any other subject.

The stereopticon has been used for more than a century by teachers and lecturers but has only recently been recognized for its pedagogical value. The moving picture is of more recent use but has already passed beyond the experimental stage and is being extensively used in the teaching of many subjects. The motion picture and the stereopticon as means of instruction have won for themselves a permanent place in the modern school, and their value for educational purposes is recognized by national leaders in education and by the foremost educational institutions. It is now pretty generally said that no school is perfectly equipped that has no machine for showing the slide and film. Practically every subject can be illustrated with this machine, and I know of no subject that lends itself so readily to the use of the stereopticon and moving picture as the Bible. The Bible is an oriental book and thus contains all the charms that belong to that ancient east. The customs and manners, social and religious ideas, manner of tilling the ground and irrigating, in fact the people as they lived can be thrown on the screen and made real to the student as no amount of lecturing can do. Both slides and films may be used most effectively in such courses as archaeology, geography, customs and manners, as well as to illustrate the dramatic and epic literature of the Old and New Testament. Slides and films are now available in all the subjects and may be rented at

small cost. Of course, the slides and films need to be worked out more carefully by experts so that they present the truth rather than fancy, and it may be that this association should undertake some reform in this line. And may I suggest here that every Biblical instructor should become familiar with the running of the machine so that he can either do it himself or instruct some one who will do it for him.

The stereoscope is being used in the Sunday School and home with splendid results, and in some respects it surpasses any other method of seeing the pictures. It is simple and cheap and can be used by teachers where the lantern would be impossible. It also shows the picture with depth that makes the landscape stretch out in a very real and striking way.

The Association at its last meeting appointed a committee on streopticon slides and illustrations which will prepare a list of the valuable slides available in Biblical work and will keep the members of the Association informed from time to time regarding illustrative material.

Every teacher of the Bible should also begin the collection of a museum of antiquities as a means of illustration. It is not difficult to gather a small collection of ancient coins, tablets, pottery, and such things that will add interest to subject presented. Maps, charts and a blackboard are also essential.

MINUTES OF THE MIDDLE WEST SECTION

The Third Annual Conference of the Middle West Section of the Association of Biblical Instructors in American Colleges and Secondary Schools met at the University of Chicago in Haskell Hall, June 18-19, 1920.

Prof. W. C. Wheeler of Washburn College presided and Prof. James Sterenberg of Knox College acted as secretary. Addresses were given by Profs. H. L. Willett, Graham Taylor and F. M. Blanchard of Chicago. Papers were read by Prof. F. B. Oxtoby of Huron College; Prof. Ruby B. Neville of Illinois Women's College; Prof. James Sterenberg of Knox College; Rev. H. L. Moore, Lincoln, Ill., and Prof. W. H. Stearns of McKendree College. Discussions followed.

Officers elected were: President, Prof. Chalmers Martin, of Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio; Vice-President, Prof. F. B.